Recruitment by R.R.B., Guwahati

2490. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the demand made by the Railway Recruitment Board, Guwahati in the recent past, for technical/non-technical posts, the educated persons from Assam were neglected, while priority was given to persons from other States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the details of technical and non-technical staff employed recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Operationalisation of Mehsana-Viramgam rail line

2491. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected time-period in which the Mehsana-Viramgam rail line would be fully operational as broad gauge; and

(b) the details of funds provided to achieve the said objective, in relation to the projected time-period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The target date for conversion of Viramgam-Mehsana has not yet been fixed. However, the section is expected to be converted to broad gauge during 2004-05 depending upon progress of Build Own Transfer contractor. The approximate expenditure incurred on this project upto 31.3.2002 is Rs. 15.89 crore and an outlay of Rs. One Crore has been provided for this project in the Budget 2002-2003.

Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval rail line

2492. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial progress with respect to conversion of the Rajkot-Veraval rail line into broad gauge;

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has a time-bound programme for completion of this conversion work; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether allocations for this work are commensurate with that time-frame; and

(d) the status of extension of this project to Somnath and Kodinar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval rail line has been taken up where earthwork, bridge works, ballast supply etc. are in various stages of progress. Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Junagarh is targeted for completion during 2002-2003. Rs. 37.32 crore has been spent on this work upto March 2002 and an outlay of Rs. 35 crore has been provided during 2002-2003.

Target for completion of entire project has not yet been fixed. the project will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) The survey for extension of this line upto Kodinar has been completed. The report is under examination. However, Government has approved extension of this line upto Somnath.

Maintenance of rail tracks

2493. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent annually by each Railway Division on rail track and related feature maintenance; and

(b) the number of maintenance projects underway under each Division and the estimated time taken for each project to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) (a) A Statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) Repair and maintenance of Railway track is an on-going process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is regularly inspected and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. However, safety is ensured at all levels and at all times and the Permanent Way Supervisors are